Claims

1. An orally administrable pharmaceutical composition comprising an alginate matrix consisting of a water-soluble alginate salt and a complex salt of alginic acid, a macrolide, and an inorganic salt characterized in that the inorganic salt is capable of donating a proton and has a pK_a value in water of 4.0 to 9.0.

2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the water-soluble alginate salt is an alkali metal salt of an alginate.

3. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the complex salt of alginic acid is sodium-calcium alginate.

4. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the macrolide is selected from the group consisting of erythromycin, roxithromycin, azithromycin, josamycin, telithromycin, clarithromycin and tylosin.

5. A composition according to claim 4 wherein the macrolide is clarithromycin.

6. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the inorganic salt has a pK_a value of 5.0 to 8.0.

7. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the inorganic salt is an alkali metal or earth-alkaline dihydrogenphosphate or hydrogensulfate.

8. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the ratio of inorganic salt : macrolide is from 1:2 to 1:100 on a weight basis.

9. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a tablet for once daily administration.

10. Process for preparing a once daily orally administrable formulation of a macrolide by mixing the macrolide with a water-soluble alginate salt, a complex salt of alginic acid, and an inorganic salt that has a pK_a value in water of 4.0 to 9.0 and that is capable to donate a proton.